

2 JUN 1986
JCI

SOVA ROUTING SLIP

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
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3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO	X			
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	SA/DDO		X		
18	NIO/NP		X		
19	D/OSWR		X		
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Remarks

T0 #14: For handling as appropriate.

STAT

Executive Secretary

27 May 86

Date

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ROUTING: _____	DATE: _____	
<i>ADDI</i>	<i>31/28</i>	
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<i>ADDI</i>	<i>29 May</i>	
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<i>[Redacted]</i>		<i>[Signature] 5/29</i>

Executive Registry

86- 2287X

Dr. Boris S. Browzin
7905 Glendale Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

May 20, 1986

Mr. William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

I am writing to you on a subject which concerns you, me, and all American citizens. This concern is the very existence of a government which controls one-sixth of the land of the globe and which cheats its own citizens, misinforms the free Western and Far Eastern states, participates in world terrorism, commits acts of brutal aggression and, finally, threatens the population of the entire globe by permitting unannounced serious radioactive emissions. The very existence of this government is a threat to Western civilization and mankind in general. There is no need to call this government by name in order to recognize it. However, I must name it for the sake of further discussion. It is the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, established on the territory of Russia since 1917.

At the very beginning of my letter, I wish to say who I am and why I chose to write to you.

I was born in Russia just before 1917. In spite of major obstacles placed in my path by the Soviets, I was graduated from Petrograd Polytechnique Institute. I defected with my family from the USSR in 1942 and have been in the United States since 1948 and have been a citizen since 1960. For the past 11 years, I have been employed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I am enclosing my business card. In any correspondence to me at my office, please include "Personal" in the address.

It is very well known, but I can confirm it once more from my own experience, that the Russian people do not trust the Soviet government nor do they have any respect for the Soviet leaders. The Russian people suffer from all kinds of deprivations in their daily life, particularly in provincial towns and villages. There are not even dreams for the liberties experienced in the Western free societies. At the same time, there is admiration for Americans and for Western style of life as in the United States and Western Europe. In 1932 when President Roosevelt recognized the Soviets as the legal government of Russia, there was universal disappointment among the Russian people. I was among those disappointed.

The Russian people are deprived of all kinds of information. When the Korean airliner 007 was shot down, they were deliberately misinformed by their government, and the consequences of the nuclear power plant disaster at Chernobyl near Kiev were, and still are, hidden from them. It was more important for the Soviet government to hide the truth from the West and its own population than to tell the citizens of Kiev that they were in danger and to

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evacuate them. If, in 5-6 years from now, a million or so Russians in Kiev and surrounding area die from cancer, this fact will be of minor importance to the Soviet government because nobody in the West will have known about the gradual death of Russians in the obscure hospitals in and around Kiev.

We, U.S. citizens, must protect ourselves from the "evil empire" as President Reagan has called the USSR. It would also be highly moral to help the Russians in their aspiration for democracy and a better life under a different economic system. While the United States cannot bring about direct political changes toward democracy in the USSR, it can encourage the Russians in their hopes by giving them true information in their own language and by providing them access to Western literature and art and supplying them with books, journals, and even newspapers in their own language.

The information the Russians could get from us would provide enormous impact on their mood, thinking, and hopes for the future. Their present mood is one of desperation.

There are several technical problems associated with publication of books, journals, or papers in Russian and an even more serious problem in delivery of such material across the Soviet border. Mr. Thomson, principal editor of the Readers Digest, until his retirement in 1984, wrote to me "we will be glad to publish a Russian edition" if you can deliver it to the Russians. I am enclosing a copy of his letter.

There are many "holes" through which literature can be delivered to Russia, but new methods of delivery could and should be developed. I propose the following several tasks:

1. Selecting existing Russian language books already published in the West; those which are the most outstanding: short stories, novels, philosophical treatises, some of which are probably known to you, and republishing these books in adequate quantities to permit distribution within the USSR.
2. Listing existing Russian language periodicals in the U.S. and Europe, selecting some of them, and subsidizing their publishers to increase the number of copies for eventual delivery to the USSR.
3. Publication of a politically oriented Russian language Readers Digest.
4. Publication of a new political and literary journal which I personally would be interested in editing. This journal would make an appeal toward a new Democratic Russia.
5. Publication of a new "Russian Daily," which would not follow either the extremes of left or right wing schools of thought.
6. Translate and publish the works of the best American authors.

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Among the six tasks, I consider the third (the Russian Language Readers Digest) and the fourth (a political and literary journal) as the most important. Nothing of this kind is being done at present.

At this point, I must say that the Russian language is the universally spoken language in the USSR. This makes the task of new publications a much less complicated undertaking. The radio broadcasting in local languages of Russia as done by the "Voice of America" is desirable but, in writing, there is no need to use any language other than Russian.

The broad proposals outlined above require funding and organization. This could be established within your Agency. The time of the FY '87 budget is approaching. If you are willing to consider my recommendations, which are supported by many intellectuals in the United States, I would consider joining your Agency to help organize or to assist in any manner you may deem appropriate in this very important undertaking. I trust you share my opinion regarding the importance of this matter. My activity could be on a part time basis since I would not like to abruptly leave my work at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission which I enjoy.

As a Russian born, U.S. citizen, I consider that it is my duty to express my views to you. A concentrated effort along the lines proposed above would stimulate the Russians to think about and work toward a democratic form of government which would be of great benefit to them, to us, and to oppressed people throughout the world.

I appreciate having your views and ultimately discussing these ideas with you personally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Boris S. Browzin".

Boris S. Browzin

Enclosures: (2)



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • *Edward T. Thompson*

March 30, 1984

Dear Mr. Browzin:

Nothing would please us more than to have a Russian-language edition of the Reader's Digest circulating in Russia, by whatever means. We know from past experience that this will not happen on an official basis -- we have been turned down a number of times. (Various editions do go to Russia but only to certain government officials.)

If you have practical ideas as to how such an edition might enter the Soviet Union, would you please get in touch with Kenneth O. Gilmore, who is succeeding me as Editor-in-Chief. While we would welcome foundation help financially -- and I feel sure it would contribute to the costs -- an ability to circulate is the first and most important consideration.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward T. Thompson", is written below the word "Cordially,".

Mr. Boris S. Browzin
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
United States Nuclear Regulatory Comm.
Washington, D. C. 20555

cc Kenneth O. Gilmore